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MINUTES  
OF THE  
FORTIETH SYNOD  
OF THE  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MINISTERIUM  
OF  
THE STATE OF NEW-YORK.  
1835.

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MINISTER

NORTHERN

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MINISTERIUM

THE STATE OF NEW YORK

1882



# MINUTES

OF THE

FORTIETH SYNOD

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MINISTERIUM,

OF

THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,

AND ADJACENT PARTS.

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CONVENED IN THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AT GERMANTOWN,  
COLUMBIA CO., NEW-YORK, ON THE 12TH AND FOLLOWING DAYS OF  
SEPTEMBER, A. D. 1835.

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NEW-YORK:

HENRY LUDWIG, PRINTER,  
Corner of Greenwich & Vesey-sts.

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1835.



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MINUTES

OF THE

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OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE STATE

AND

CONVENED IN THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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MINUTES  
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FORTIETH SYNOD  
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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MINISTERIUM  
OF THE  
STATE OF NEW-YORK AND ADJACENT PARTS.

---

*Saturday, Sept. 12th, 1835.*

PURSUANT to adjournment, the members of the Ministerium and lay delegates assembled at the Lutheran Church under the pastoral care of the Rev. President Dr. Wackerhagen, in Germantown, Columbia County, N. Y. At early candle light, the services of the Sanctuary were opened with singing and prayer by the Rev. Secretary, when the Rev. Smith P. Gammage, delegate from the New-York Congregational Association, delivered a discourse on Isaiah lii. 7. "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings," &c.

*Sunday, Sept. 13th.*

At 10 o'clock, A.M. the members of the Ministerium assembled, and joined with a numerous congregation in the solemnities of divine worship, when the Rev. President, Dr. Wackerhagen, delivered the Synodical discourse on Luke xiii. 20, 21. "And again he said, whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God," &c.

At 2 o'clock, P.M., the services of the sanctuary were resumed, in the German language, and the Rev. Senior, Dr. Geissenhainer, delivered a sermon from Ephesians i. 13, 14. "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth the gospel of your salvation," &c.

At 4 o'clock, the Rev. Candidate Lewis Smith, jun. addressed the congregation on John xvii. 17. "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth."

The exercises of public worship were also conducted on this occasion in the Lutheran Church, at Livingston's Manor, by the Rev. J. Berger, who delivered a discourse on Matthew vii. 19, 21.

*First Session.*

*Monday, Sept. 14, 1835.*

The Synod assembled for the transaction of business, at 9 o'clock, A.M., in the church, and having been organised, was constituted with prayer by the Rev. President.

On calling the roll, the Secretary registered the following members present.



### ***Ordained Ministers.***

1. Rev. A. Wackerhagen, D.D., President, Clermont, N. Y.
2. " H. N. Pohlman, Secretary, New Germantown, N. J.
3. " F. W. Geissenhainer, Jun., Treasurer, New-York City.
4. " J. F. G. Uhl, Churchtown, N. Y.
5. " F. G. Mayer, Albany, N. Y.
6. " F. W. Geissenhainer, D.D., New-York City.
7. " J. Berger, A.M., Claverack, N. Y.
8. " W. J. Eyer, Rhinebeck, N. Y.
9. " H. Hayunga, Williamsburgh and Osnabruck, U. C.
10. " C. B. Thuemmel, A.M., Clinton, N. Y.
11. " W. D. Strobel, New-York City.
12. Prof. H. I. Smith, Hartwick Seminary, N. Y.
13. Re . C. A. Smith, Palatine, N. Y.
14. " W. L. Gibson.
15. " P. Merkle, Newark, N. J.

### ***Candidates.***

16. Rev. Lewis Smith, Jr., New-York City.
17. " W. A. Fetter, Rush, N. Y.

### ***Lay Representatives.***

18. Mr. Lodowick Bots, Churchtown.
19. " Bernard G. Garling, Albany.
20. " David Near, Germantown and Livingston.
21. " Lewis Smith, German Congregation of St. Matthews, N. Y.
22. Col. Jacob Kline, New Germantown and German Valley, N. J.
23. Mr. Henry H. Wilkinson, Ghent and Millville.
24. " George Lambert, Rhinebeck and Wurtemburgh.
25. " F. Thall, English Congregation of St. Matthews, N. Y.
26. " E nest Kass, St. James, N. Y.
27. " George J. Lasher, Palatine and Stone Arabia.
28. " William Bauer, Newark, N. J.

### ***Commissioner.***

29. Mr. Harman Bokum, German Society, Boston, Mass.

*Delegates from other Ecclesiastical Bodies who appeared during the session and were received as advisory members.*

30. Rev. Smith P. Gammage, from New-York Congregational Association.
31. Rev. J. P. Hecht, from the Synod of Pennsylvania.
32. " J. Z. Senderling from the Hartwick Synod.
33. " N. W. Goertner from the Synod of Maryland.



*Clerical Members Absent.*

1. Rev. P. F. Mayer, D.D., Philadelphia, *excused*.
2. " J. W. Starman, Waldoborough, Me., *excused*.
3. Prof. G. B. Miller, Hartwick Seminary, *excused*.
4. Rev. F. H. Guinther, Buffalo, *excused*.
5. " Richard Collier, Spruce Run, N. J., *excused*.

*Congregations not represented.*

Waldoborough, Me., Hartwick, Buffalo, Williamsburgh and Osna-bruck, U. C., Saddle River, Ramapough and Spruce Run, N. J., Rochester and Rush, N. Y., United Congregations of Lafargeville, Pamela, &c. N. Y.

The Rev. President then read his report, (*See Appendix A.*) which was accepted, and together with the accompanying documents laid upon the table to be acted upon in due order of business.

The Rev. Thomas Lape, of the Hartwick Synod, was introduced to the house, and invited to a seat.

The proceedings of the Synods of North Carolina, Hartwick, South Carolina, Eastern District of the Synod of Ohio, and of the Convention held in Jefferson County, Kentucky, were presented for consideration and distribution. Whereupon it was

I. *Resolved*, That Dr. Geissenhainer, Rev. W. D. Strobel, J. Berger, F. G. Mayer, F. W. Geissenhainer, jr. and H. Hayunga, be a Committee to examine and report on the above proceedings.

The Rev. W. D. Strobel gave notice that he intended to propose the appointment of a delegate to attend the Missionary Convention to be held at Mechanicsburgh in October next.

Mr. Bokum, through the Rev. W. D. Strobel, presented a petition from the Society of Evangelical Lutheran Germans in Boston, Mass., requesting admission into this Ministerium.

The clergy next handed in their parochial reports as exhibited in the following tables. (*See Table.*)



## PAROCHIAL RETURNS.

	No. of Congregations.	Baptisms.		Confirmations.	No. admitted from other churches.	No. of individuals who have partaken of the Lord's Supper.	No. entitled to Communion.	No. removed.	No. of deaths of members.	No. of funerals attended in congregations.	Sunday schools.	Teachers.	Scholars.		No. of Catechumens.	No. of candidates for Confirmation.	Post-Offices.
		Infants.	Adults.										Adults.	Children.			
Rev. J. F. G. Uhl,*	1	41	1	4		60	100		4	10	1			40		7	Hudson, Columbia Co., N. Y.
" F. G. Mayer,	1	20	2	2	19	276	294										Albany, N. Y.
" A. Wackerhagen, D.D.	3	130	1	8	4	160	336	1	9	30	1	4	1	123	12		Clermont, Columbia Co., N. Y.
" F. W. Geissenhainer, D.D.	2	180	1	26	112	557	700		8	38	1	8	5	50	30		{ New-York City, 509, Broome-street.
" F. W. Geissenhainer, jr.	2								2	5	1						{ New-York City, 507, Broome-street.
" Henry N. Pohlman,	2			3					27	31	1	2		45			New Germantown, Hunterdon Co., N.J.
" F. H. Guinther,	1	39	25			204	197	10	8	17							Buffalo, N. Y.
" Jacob Berger,	2	37	314		8	159	399		16								Claverack, Columbia Co., N. Y.
" Wm. J. Eyer,	2	94	4			177	175	3	4	14	1	13		75	46	38	Rhinebeck, Dutchess Co., N. Y.
" Wm. D. Strobel,	1	18	1	8		97	211		3		1	5		37			New-York City, 162, Grand-street.
" Chas. A. Smith,	2	20	1	1	3	120	140		3	5	1						Palatine, Montgomery Co., N. Y.
" Wm. A. Fetter,	2	16	110		25	337	450	4	8	19	1	7		75			Rush, Munroe Co., N. Y.
" Lewis Smith, jr.	1	64	8			60			2	10	2						New-York City.
" Richard Collier,	1	47	9	3		80	124	3	1	5							Clarksville, Hunterdon Co., N. J.
" Philip Merkle,	1	22	8	8													Newark, N. J.

\* Catechetical instruction every four weeks on Sunday afternoon.



# MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS.

Rev. Dr. Mayer states, "that the number of baptisms and also of communicants during the Synodical year is so nearly the same with that of the last as scarcely to make it worth while to report details. The heavy expenses incurred by the congregation in refitting their church for the becoming celebration of public worship, have prevented me from pressing, as I should otherwise have done, upon their attention the religious charities that demand our regard. That these, however, are not altogether lost sight of by us, will appear from the collections in St. Johns, last autumn, of \$120 for the Bible Society of Philadelphia, to assist in publishing and distributing the Sacred Scriptures in the Hawaiian language; and also from the fact, that a society in the same, one of whose objects is the aiding of young men in their preparation for the Christian ministry, is now giving very valuable help, for this purpose, to a member of my church, prosecuting his preparatory studies at Hartwick. Our Tract and Book Society, and the society for the relief of distressed members, are in full and useful activity."

Rev. W. D. Strobel remarks: "That his congregation has introduced the new Hymn Book and Liturgy, and has been for several months contemplating the adoption of some means for the better promotion of its own interests, and those of the church in general."

Rev. Charles A. Smith remarks: "It is not to be inferred, from the very small number of admissions to church membership reported, that the congregations are in a less prosperous condition than they were a year ago. The attention to the means of grace is greater and more general than it has been since my residence among them. The churches are well attended on the Lord's day, and meetings held for public worship in different parts of the congregation, are crowded. I state, with regret, however, that I have found it extremely difficult to collect together a class of young persons for catechetical instruction. This I attribute to the practice so widely pursued at present, and unfortunately for the interests of the church, so popular of admitting persons into church communion and fellowship, whilst ignorant of the very first principles of Christianity. The influence of this practice is severely felt among us, and, in the minds of many, catechetical instruction and formality in religion are inseparably linked together. I have never yet pursued this plan, nor do I ever intend to, as I consider the knowledge of duty essential to its performance, and look upon that man as a dangerous member of the christian community who is unacquainted with the doctrines and moral requirements of his divine Master."

Rev. Lewis Smith, Jun., pastor of the German Reformed Church, New-York City, remarks: "This church is unconnected with any Synod. Many of its members are Lutherans, and though the congregation is denominated German Reformed, no illiberal distinction is made between the members of either denomination. On the 14th of August last, at the request of the Missionary Committee of this Ministerium, I repaired to Boston, Mass., in order to visit a number of German brethren in that city and vicinity, who had long been without the preached gospel. On the forenoon of the 16th I preached to a very attentive audience, in the school house, in which they are accustomed to meet on the Lord's day. In the afternoon we assembled for divine service in the Congregational church under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. Adams. I then also celebrated the Lord's Supper with 67 persons, and baptized 4 infants. The meeting was altogether highly interesting and solemn."

Rev. Richard Collier remarks: "We have service twice each Lord's day, and once each week in the evening at the dwellings of old people, whose age and infirmities prevent them from attending our stated worship at church. We have every reason to believe that a kind and gracious Providence is with us, and it would be ingratitude not to express it. Our worship in general is well attended, and we sometimes hear from the thoughtless sinner the cry 'what must I do to be saved.' We humbly trust the cause of our Redeemer is progressing, and the time approaching when our 'wilderness shall blossom as the rose.' Our only hope of success is built on the sure promise of him who hath said, 'Lo, I am with you always.' Depending upon such a protector, we have succeeded in erecting a house of worship 55 by 40 feet, which will be ready for consecration in a few weeks, when we earnestly expect a few of the members of our venerable Synod will 'come over and help us.'"



Mr. Henry Ludwig, a member of the Missionary Committee, was introduced to the house, and admitted to a seat.

The Treasurer's books were produced, when it was

II. *Resolved*, That the Rev. F. G. Mayer, W. D. Strobel, and Co. Kline be a committee to inspect the Treasurer's accounts and vouchers, and report thereon.

The following contributions in aid of the Synodical, Missionary, and Education Funds were then received by the Treasurer.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS.

	Synodical.	Missionary.	Education.	H. Book.
From Churchtown, . . . . .		10 25		
" Albany, . . . . .	5 00			
" Lutheran Sunday School, Albany,		2 57		
" Germantown and Livingston	2 00		6 00	5 00
" St. Matthew's Church, New-York,	5 00	61 00		
" New Germantown and German Valley, N. J., . . . . .	4 00	8 00	8 00	
" Buffalo, . . . . .	5 00			
" Ghent and Millville, . . . . .	3 00	2 00	2 00	
" Rhinebeck and Wurtemburgh,	4 00			
" Williamsburgh and Osnabruck,	2 00	2 00	2 00	
" Rev. C. B. Thuemmel, . . . . .	3 00	2 50	2 50	
" St. James' Church, New-York,	5 00	15 00	10 00	
" Palatine and Stone Arabia, . . .	2 00			
" Rev. Lewis Smith, Jun. . . . .	5 00	75 00	10 00	
" Rochester and Rush, . . . . .	3 00	5 00		
	48 00	183 32	40 50	5 00

Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Geissenhainer.

Adjourned.

#### Second Session.

Monday, 2 o'clock, P. M.

Prayer by the Rev. F. G. Mayer.

The Rev. J. Z. Senderling laid on the table 10 copies of "The Proceedings of the Eighth Convention of the General Synod," which were referred to the Committee on Minutes.

The Rev. F. W. Geissenhainer, Jr., our delegate to the Pennsylvania Synod, reported as follows:

"Your delegate, appointed by the XXVI. Resolution of the Thirty-ninth Synod, to attend the Synod of Pa., would respectfully report: That he repaired to Germantown, Pa., on the 13th June last, and was kindly received by that Rev. Body, and admitted to a seat and vote, as is usual, in that Synod. He presented to said Synod 20 copies of your last Minutes, and took occasion early to advert to your claim to a fourth part of Streit's Legacy. But Dr. Niemeyer not having given any answer to the inquiry whether any other documents were in his hands which assigned the whole amount to the Pa. Synod, and is not expected to give any expression of his sentiments—a Committee was



appointed to carry out the Resolution of their Synod of 1832, page 11. This Committee consists of Rev. J. Baker, Dr. Demme, and Peixotto, and was empowered to pay over our portion to us. Your delegate heard that last year \$1000 was again received from Halle. And placing full reliance upon the worthy brethren who constitute said Committee, he trusts all will soon be satisfactorily adjusted.

"Respectfully submitted,

"F. W. GEISSENHAINER, jun."

III. *Resolved*, That the Report of our delegate be accepted and published in the Minutes.

In reference to the above Report the Rev. J. P. Hecht, President of the Pa. Synod, and delegate from that body, stated that since the adjournment of their Synod, he had been empowered to pay over to the New-York Synod \$400, as our proportion of Streit's Legacy, and that the money now waited our acceptance. Whereupon it was

IV. *Resolved*, That the Treasurer of this Ministerium be authorized to draw upon the President of the Pa. Synod for the above amount.

The following Report was received from the Rev. Dr. Mayer.

"To the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of the State of New-York, &c., the undersigned begs leave to report: That in fulfilment of the 10th Resolution of the last Synod, he caused the 318 copies of the old edition of our Hymns and Liturgy to be bound by G. W. Mentz & Son, at 12 cents per copy, thus incurring an expense of \$38.16. That 88 copies in superior binding, subsequently received, as will appear by the Report of the Hymn Book Committee, have also been deposited, by their order, with G. W. Mentz & Son for sale. That from both these parcels there have been sold 11 dozen and 3 copies, at various prices, according to the intention of the aforesaid 10th Resolution, for the sum of \$28.50, which has been paid to the binders, of course, in discharge in part of their bill; and that 5 dozen have been forwarded to Dr. Hazelius, at Lexington, South Carolina, who kindly offered to sell them for us on commission, but from whom no return has yet been made.

"PHILIP F. MAYER."

V. *Resolved*, That this report be accepted, and published in the Minutes.

The Rev. Mr. Merz, from the Synod of Pa., was introduced to the house and invited to a seat.

The Rev. W. D. Strobel, from the Hymn Book Committee, presented the following Report:

"The Committee on the publication of the Hymn Book and Liturgy



respectfully report: That after the adjournment of the Ministerium in 1834, eighty-eight copies of the old Hymns and Liturgy, in superior binding, were delivered to the Chairman by D. Billmeyer, which, agreeably to our contract with him, we were obliged to receive at 50 cents per copy—thus adding \$44 to the debt of the Committee, and increasing it to the sum of \$83, for the liquidation of which no moneys have been received from congregations in the past year. In order to pay off this debt, the Committee believe it indispensable, to draw upon the profits arising from the sale of the new book. They are aware, that these have been appropriated to another fund: but as they have grown out of the operations of the Committee, the necessity of the case warrants such an application of them. The Committee therefore beg leave to offer the following Resolutions.

VI. *Resolved*, That the sum still owing by the Committee on the publication of the Hymns and Liturgy, be paid out of the profits arising from the sale of the same; and that the Committee be discharged.

VII. *Resolved*, That the proceeds of the sale of the copies of the old Hymns and Liturgy, now in the care of Dr. Mayer, and the hands of G. W. Mentz & Son, be paid, after the settlement of the bill for binding the same, to the Committee charged with 'the Fund for the assistance of disabled clergymen, and of the widows and orphans of deceased clergymen.'

"PHILIP F. MAYER, *Chairman*."

VIII. *Resolved*, That the Report be accepted and published in the Minutes.

The Resolutions presented by the Committee were then separately considered, passed, and the whole Report adopted.

The Chairman of the Committee on the fund for the assistance of disabled clergymen, &c., presented the following report.

"The Committee on the fund for the support of disabled ministers beg leave to Report: That the nett proceeds of the sale of hymn books for the past year has amounted to \$136. That, in settling with Mr. Ludwig, they have taken his bill against the Synod for \$50,27, and a note for the balance \$85,73 for one year, adding interest, for \$90,86. There is on hand from last Synod \$12,43, and \$10 subscriptions unpaid, making \$22,43, which, with the bill against Synod, gives us a balance, independent of the note, of \$72,70. There is yet due on the plates the sum of \$83, which this balance would nearly cover, if it should be the pleasure of Synod to appropriate it in that way.

"Respectfully submitted,

"WM. D. STROBEL, *Chairman*."



**IX. Resolved,** That this report be accepted and published in the Minutes.

A communication was received from the Rev. Mr. Merz requesting aid for the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Pa., when on motion it was

**X. Resolved,** That, whilst our best wishes accompany Rev. Mr. Merz, we sincerely regret that the numerous claims made upon us by our own destitute congregations render it impossible for us to do any thing for the promotion of his object as a Synod.

The Rev. Charles A. Smith, from the Committee on Hartwick Seminary presented the following Report:

"Your Committee would report that a majority of their number were present at the last annual examination of the students of Hartwick Seminary, and meeting of the Board of Trustees. During the examination the students afforded plain evidence of industry and application on their part, and the utmost attention to the advancement of the students, in the various branches of study on the part of the Professors of the Institution. The average number of students during the past year has been forty—Theological, three; Preparandi, ten the two first, and fourteen the last term; Classical and others, twenty-six, average number. In regard to the appointment of another Professor, your Committee would state, that they have conferred with the Committee of the Hartwick Synod, but, though the members of both Committees seem to consider the object highly important, circumstances have hitherto prevented their co-operation. Your Committee hope that the interests of the Institution will not be forgotten by the Synod at its present meeting, and that some effectual measures may be devised to procure the services of an additional Professor.

"Respectfully submitted,

"W. D. STROBEL, *Chairman.*

"CHARLES A. SMITH, *Secretary.*"

**XI. Resolved,** That the Report on Hartwick Seminary be accepted and published in the Minutes.

The Secretary, as delegate to the New-York Congregational Association, presented the following Report:

"Your delegate would report that his attendance upon the meeting of the New-York Congregational Association has afforded another evidence to his mind, that the differences among various denominations, which have so long and so successfully opposed the progress of the truth, need only to be examined with something of the spirit of the Master we serve, and they will vanish like the morning cloud and the early dew. His attendance there has, also, convinced him that



were Christians to cherish more of a friendly intercourse with each other, the separating walls which ignorance and prejudice have raised, and which have hitherto prevented a union of action and effort in building up the Redeemer's kingdom, would fall like Dagon before the ark of God. As an evidence of the feelings which animate that body, your delegate would beg leave to present a copy of a resolution which received the cordial assent of every member of the Association: '*Resolved*, That the presence of the Rev. Henry N. Pohlman, delegate from the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of New-York, gives us the highest gratification; that we cherish with a fraternal reciprocity the amiable feelings manifested towards this Association by that venerable body of Christians which he represents, and hail the commencement of exchange of delegates as the pledge of mutual pleasure and benefit.'

"Respectfully submitted,

"HENRY N. POHLMAN."

XII. *Resolved*, That this Report be accepted and published in the Minutes, and that the Rev. F. W. Geissenhainer, jun., be a delegate from this body to attend the next annual meeting of the Association to be held at Patchogue, L. I., on the 3d Wednesday in May, 1836.

XIII. *Resolved*, That the Rev. P. F. Mayer, D.D., be our delegate to the next annual meeting of the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania.

XIV. *Resolved*, That the Rev. Charles A. Smith be our delegate to the next annual meeting of the Hartwick Synod.

XV. *Resolved*, That the Secretary be our delegate to the next meeting of the Synod of Maryland.

Closed with prayer by the Rev. J. Z. Senderling.

### *Third Session.*

*Monday Evening, 7 o'clock.*

A numerous congregation united their voices with the Ministerium in singing Bishop Heber's Missionary Hymn, when the session was opened with prayer by the Rev. J. Z. Senderling, Dr. Geissenhainer, Chairman of the Missionary Committee being called to the chair.

The Rev. W. D. Strobel, Secretary of the Missionary and Education Committee, presented their annual report, (see *Appendix B.*) concluding with the following Resolutions,

XVI. *Resolved*, That the encouragement we have hitherto met with in our Education and Missionary operations calls for our warmest thanks to Almighty God.

XVII. *Resolved*, That we mutually pledge ourselves to each



other, and to the church, to use the most untiring exertions in this sacred cause.

XVIII. *Resolved*, That the existing state of things calls for a more general co-operation between all our churches and Synods.

XIX. *Resolved*, That we invite the members of our several congregations to unite with us in a contribution of — dollars or cents each, to promote the benevolent operations of this Synod for the present year.

These resolutions called forth a most animated and spirit-stirring discussion, in which the Rev. Messrs. Berger, Strobel, Fetter, and Pohlman, among others, took part, and which continued till half-past 10 o'clock, when it was unanimously

XX. *Resolved*, That the Report, together with the accompanying Resolutions, be adopted, and published in the minutes.

During the evening the Rev. Messrs. Berger, Strobel, and Pohlman, severally pledged themselves to raise \$25 each in behalf of our Missionary and Education Funds for the present year.

This interesting meeting was closed with prayer by the Rev. Wm. D. Strobel, and the congregation dismissed with a benediction.

#### *Fourth Session.*

*Tuesday, 9 o'clock.*

Opened with prayer by the Rev. S. P. Gammage.

Minutes of the preceeding sessions were read and approved.

The Rev. F. G. Mayer, Chairman of the Committee on the Treasurer's accounts reported as follows :

"The Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer beg leave to state that they have carefully examined his different accounts, and find them correctly stated ; there being in the hands of the Treasurer, belonging to the Education Fund \$5,25 ; and \$12,43 belonging to the Hymn Book Fund ; also \$1,03 belonging to the Missionary Fund ; and that there is due to the Treasurer from the Synodical Fund 4 cents.

"Respectfully submitted.

"F. G. MAYER, *Chairman.*"

Mr. Veil presented a petition from the congregations at Eden, Boston, and Hamburg, Erie County, N. Y., requesting admission into this Ministerium. Whereupon it was

XXI. *Resolved*, That the petition of the congregations at Eden, Boston, and Hamburg, be granted.

XXII. *Resolved*, That the petition from the Society of Evangelical Lutheran Germans, at Boston, Mass., requesting admission into this Ministerium be granted, and that they be requested, as soon as they obtain



a minister, to organize themselves, under his direction, according to the rules and regulations of this Ministerium.

The President's Report was then brought up for consideration, when at the article relating to the General Synod, Professor H. I. Smith offered three Resolutions, which after an interesting discussion, were laid upon the table till the afternoon session.

The Rev. J. Berger, Chairman of the Committee on the revision of the Constitution, begged leave to amend the Report of last year by inserting the following :

On page 19, §. 17, 2d line from the close of the page, for "shall" read *may*.

Leave being granted, the whole Report as amended was read, and, after consideration, unanimously adopted. Consequently the alterations found on page 18th of the printed minutes of the 39th Session of Synod, together with the above amendment have become a part of the Constitution.

It being deemed unadvisable, in consequence of the low state of the Synodical Treasury, to publish a new edition of the Constitution this year, the Rev. F. W. Geissenhainer, jun., offered the following alteration.

On page 11, 2d line, for "shall" read *may*.

The Rev. Wm. D. Strobel also offered the following amendment to the article respecting ordination reported by the Committee,

On page 18, printed minutes of 39th Synod, 26th line, after "wishes" read *and prayers*.

XXIII. *Resolved*, That the proposed alterations be accepted, and laid on the table to be acted upon at the next annual meeting of the Synod.

Closed with prayer by the Rev. N. W. Goertner.

### *Fifth Session.*

*Tuesday, 2 o'clock, P. M.*

Prayer by the Rev. W. J. Eyer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

XXIV. *Resolved*, That the Missionary and Education Committee hold quarterly meetings for the despatch of business; three in the city of New-York, and the fourth at the place of the annual meeting of the Ministerium.

The Rev. Mr. Rudy, of the German Reformed Church, was introduced to the house, and invited to a seat.

The Chairman of the Committee on Minutes presented their Report, but as it consists chiefly of statistical items which have already



been presented to the Church in other publications, and there is nothing immediately interesting to this body, it is omitted.

The Resolutions offered by Professor H. I. Smith were taken up for consideration: when the two first were, after an animated discussion, adopted, as follows:

**XXV. Resolved,** That the increasing wants and exigencies of our church indicate the expediency of a closer union and more perfect co-operation of all our Synods.

**XXVI. Resolved,** That the alterations made in the Constitution of the General Synod, at its last meeting, manifest a disposition on the part of our brethren to meet our views, and establish such a union as is consistent with our principles of church government.

The third Resolution, together with an amendment, offered by the Rev. F. W. Geissenhainer, jun., were then laid on the table till the evening session.

**XXVII. Resolved,** That the thanks of this Synod be presented, by the President this afternoon, to the congregation in this place for their kindness and hospitality to the members composing this body during its present session.

The Synod, after prayer by the Rev. Charles A. Smith, adjourned to attend upon the exercises of public worship.

### *Sixth Session.*

*Tuesday Evening, 7 o'clock.*

Opened with prayer by the Rev. W. A. Fetter.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

**XXVIII. Resolved,** That the Missionary and Education Committee, at their first quarterly meeting, in conjunction with the officers of this Ministerium, revise the plan for missionary and education operations, and report at the next meeting of Synod.

**XXIX. Resolved,** That the Chairman of the Missionary and Education Committee write to the Convention to be held in Mechanicsburgh in October next, expressing our deep interest in Missionary operations, and our hearty co-operation in any measures they may adopt, having for their end the salvation of souls, and the extension of the boundaries of our beloved Zion.

The third Resolution offered by Professor H. I. Smith, with the amendment thereto, being now in order, it was, after discussion, withdrawn by the mover, and the following substitute, offered by the same gentleman, unanimously adopted.

**XXX. Resolved,** That a Committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the expediency of a union of this body with the General Synod, and that this Committee be authorized to confer with



all the members of this Ministerium on the subject, and to apply for such information as may be deemed necessary, to the officers of the General Synod; and that this Committee report at the next meeting of this Ministerium.

Whereupon the President named the following gentlemen as said Committee, Rev. H. I. Smith, F. W. Geissenhainer, jun., J. Berger, Dr. B. Ogden, and Mr. F. Thall.

XXXI. *Resolved*, That the President's report be adopted.

XXXII. *Resolved*, That we cheerfully recommend the Lutheran Observer to the patronage of our people.

Nothing now remained but to determine the time and place of the next meeting of Synod, when, upon an invitation of Col. Kline, it was

XXXIII. *Resolved*, That this Synod now adjourn to meet on the 2d Saturday of September, A. D. 1836, in the Congregation under the pastoral care of the Rev. Secretary, in New Germantown, Hunterdon county, New Jersey.

The brethren then united their voices in a hymn of praise, and the Rev. President closed the business of the session with a fervent prayer.

### *Ministerial Session.*

*Monday, 12 o'clock, M.*

The session was opened with prayer by the Rev. Henry N. Pohlman.

Mr. Veil, of North Boston, Erie county, N. Y., presented his testimonials, and offered himself for examination and licensure.

The Rev. Dr. Geissenhainer proposed for examination and licensure Messrs. Henry Scheib and Augustus T. Geissenhainer, of New-York.

I. *Resolved*, That the Rev. Dr. Geissenhainer, Rev. Messrs. C. B. Thuemmel, H. I. Smith, J. Berger, and H. N. Pohlman be a Committee to examine the applicants, and report to the Ministerium.

Applications were made by the Rev. J. Berger and F. W. Geissenhainer, jun., for the ordination of the Rev. Candidates Lewis Smith, jun., and W. A. Fetter, when it was

II. *Resolved*, That the applications for ordination be referred to the Committee appointed under the 1st Resolution.

Prayer by the Rev. F. W. Geissenhainer, Jun.

*Monday, 5 o'clock, P.M.*

Prayer by the Rev. J. Berger.

The charges against the Rev. Philip Merkle, of Newark, N. J., having been laid before the Ministerium, and ample opportunity afford-



ed the accused for explanation and defence, the Ministerium "upon a fair and sufficient investigation," and after solemn and prayerful consideration, in accordance with chapter v. § 4, of the Constitution, unanimously

III. *Resolved*, That the Rev. Philip Merkle be disowned by this Ministerium.

IV. *Resolved*, That the Rev. F. W. Geissenhainer, jun., and Lewis Smith, jun., be a Committee to communicate this Resolution of the Ministerium to the congregation at Newark.

Closed with prayer by the Rev. H. I. Smith.

*Tuesday, 12 o'clock, M.*

Opened with prayer by the Rev. C. B. Thuemmel.

The Rev. C. B. Thuemmel, from the Committee on Examination, reported as follows.

"The Committee appointed for the examination of the candidates for licence beg leave respectfully to report, That they have attended to their duty as far as time would permit, that they have examined the several candidates in the original language of the New Testament, and in Christian theology, and have received pleasing and satisfactory evidence of their literary and theological attainments, as well as of their piety and upright intention in seeking the sacred office of the gospel ministry.

"The Committee would therefore beg leave to offer the following resolution :

V. *Resolved*, "That the candidates William Frederick Veil, Henry Scheib, and Augustus T. Geissenhainer, receive licence during the present session of this Ministerium to preach the gospel and to perform other ministerial acts.

"The Committee have likewise cursorily examined the journals and sermons presented to this Ministerium by the licensed candidates Lewis Smith, jun., and Wm. A. Fetter, and have found them highly satisfactory, and would recommend the following resolution.

VI. *Resolved*, "That these brethren be at this time duly and solemnly set apart by ordination and imposition of hands to the work of the gospel ministry, and as fellow-labourers with us in the vineyard of our divine Lord and Master.

"F. W. GEISSENHAINER, sen., *Chairman*.

"C. B. THUEMMEL,, *Secretary*."

VII. *Resolved*, That the above Report with the accompanying Resolutions be adopted.

The Rev. W. D. Strobel presented several letters and credentials from the Rev. Philip Henry Dennler, which being read, it was



VIII. *Resolved*, That the Rev. P. H. Dennler be recommended to the Missionary Committee, and that he be invited to meet with us at the next session of our Ministerium.

IX. *Resolved*, That the Rev. Mr. Wetsell be also invited to meet with us at our next session, bringing his credentials with him.

Closed with prayer by the Rev. President.

### *Licensure and Ordination.*

At 4 o'clock the exercises of divine worship commenced with singing, and prayer by the Rev. J. Berger, when the Rev. Secretary delivered the Ordination Sermon from 1 Corinthians xvi. 13, "Quit you like men, be strong." The three candidates for licence were then addressed in an affectionate and earnest manner by the Rev. President, and having received from them the usual promises required by the Constitution, he implored the blessing of the great Head of the church to rest upon them, and received them as candidates for the ministry, and members of the Ministerium.

The candidates for ordination having approached the altar, were affectionately exhorted by the Rev. President to walk worthy of their high vocation, and to approve themselves to God, and in the sight of all men as workmen who need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. After entering into the solemn engagements prescribed by the fundamental rules of the Ministerium, they were set apart and solemnly ordained by the imposition of hands and prayer, as ministers of the gospel of the grace of God, and pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Rev. Senior and the Secretary assisted in this apostolic rite. The newly-ordained pastors then received the right hand of Christian fellowship and love, and all the brethren drew nigh, and surrounding the festal board, commemorated the dying love of Him who had bought them with a price, and counted them worthy to minister at his altar, by partaking of that holy supper which he had ordained.

After uniting in singing a hymn, the Rev. President expressed the thanks of the Synod to the members of the congregation for their kindness and hospitality, and closed the interesting solemnities by pronouncing the benediction.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and faithful account of the proceedings of the Fortieth Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of the State of New-York and adjacent parts.

HENRY N. POHLMAN, *Secretary.*



## APPENDIX A.

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### *Report to Synod, September, 1835.*

THE foundation of God standeth sure, as it has done these eighteen hundred years, and we have the most satisfactory assurance from the lips of Him who laid that foundation, whereof He himself is the chief cornerstone, that that divine structure, the church of Christ, shall continue to stand co-equal with man and the duration of time on earth. We, my brethren, every one in his station, are particles of that foundation, parts of that grand and glorious edifice reared by the Son of God, and if we act our parts well in the position in which it has pleased an all-wise Providence to place us, we are the blessed instruments of God, to aid in the continuance and in the progress of the church of Christ among men. Another revolution of the earth has completed another synodical year, and brought us together in a happy, brotherly meeting, to exchange affections, experiences and counsels, to strengthen each other's hands for the promotion of the great purposes of our calling, and to enjoy each other's society for a brief space of time. May our Meeting be what it is wont to be, a meeting of love and harmony, for collective and individual joy and benefit.

The year, which has elapsed, since last you favoured me with your approbation of my past incompetent services, and honoured me again with the dignified office which makes it my duty to lay before this body the annual report of proceedings and events which have transpired in that part of the christian church, which is confided to our particular care; this year, I am happy to say, has been again signalized by divine favours and mercies, redounding to the glory of their adorable author and to the good of our church. Our Zion has increased under the fostering care of Providence, the banners of the Captain of salvation have been unfurled wider, the number of watchmen on the walls of our church are still on their stations, and our prospects for the future are cheering, as you will perceive from the general tenor of the following brief report.

1. Immediately after my return home from the Synod of last year, I received a letter from our Brother Guinther at Buffalo, applying to our Ministerium in behalf of the Rev. G. W. L. Metzger, hitherto a missionary attached to the Basle and London Episcopal Missionary Societies, desiring to be received as a member of this Ministerium, and by that body to be employed. But, being acquainted with the sentiments of the brethren in general upon the delicate subject of a certain connexion in which that Rev. gentleman is placed, I found myself constrained to signify to the Rev. Mr. Metzger, by Brother Guinther, the impossibility of his admission into this body. The circumstance will, no doubt, be regretted by the brethren in general, since the applicant is said to be personally deserving of esteem, and comes highly recommended by those with whom he was formerly connected.

2. Our aged Brother Gibson found himself obliged to inform me in the autumn of last year, that, notwithstanding his utmost endeavours, he had not succeeded to unite the two congregations of Ramapo and Saddle river, and that, in consequence, he could not remain among them any longer, receiving from them no means of support.



3. With regard to the Committee appointed by the last Synod for the purpose of conferring with a similar Committee from the Hartwick Synod upon the means of unitedly raising funds for the support of a third teacher in the Hartwick Seminary, I have to refer the brethren to the Report which will, no doubt, be handed in by your Committee. It is feared that their Report will not be as favourable as there had been reasons to anticipate.

4. Towards the end of the month of December, Mr. Lopez informed me, that he had received and accepted of an advantageous call to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, whither he intended to remove forthwith. Since Mr. Lopez had been received and licensed by this Ministerium with a view to preach in and about Newark in the English language, which was highly desirable, it is the more to be regretted that he has removed thence, since the German language alone appears not to answer all the religious wants of the Lutherans in that vicinity. It would, in my opinion, be a fortunate circumstance if provision could be made for those people to hear the gospel preached by a member of our Ministerium in both the English and the German languages. This congregation, on other accounts seems to be at present in such a condition as to require the particular attention of this Ministerium.

5. Early in the present year the Rev. Mr. Eyer gave me notice of a renewed call he had received and accepted from both parties of the congregation in Rhinebeck, as from other sources I understand for the space of eighteen months, dated from the 1st of January of the present year. Mr. Eyer likewise informs me of the erection of a new church by different denominations in the town of Milan, in which Brother Eyer preaches at stated times.

6. On the 2d Lord's day of January last, assisted by several clergymen of other denominations, of the neighbourhood of Clermont, I consecrated a new church in the place of my residence, under the name of Clermont Academy chapel, which is open to different denominations of the Christian church.

7. Our young Brother Lewis Smith, of New-York, communicated to me, in the course of the winter, the pleasing information that the happy connection between himself and the German reformed congregation in the city of New-York continued, and had been drawn closer by a renewed call and an increased salary since the 1st of January.

8. Our prospects in the western portion of this state, in and near Buffalo, seem to become more and more cheering. Brother Guinther, in the month of April last, has given me the information that the Lutheran congregations in the city and surrounding country are increasing continually and considerably, and that liberal subscriptions are making for the erection of a large church in Buffalo. I hope that, by this time, much has been done towards the execution of that great and good purpose.

9. Those among you, my brethren, who are in the habit of reading the Lutheran Observer, cannot but have taken notice, that some time in the spring of the present year there appeared a piece in that paper subscribed "*Overtures*," having a reference to the "General Synod." To these "*Overtures*" an answer was framed by several members of our Ministerium, and signed by them and some others, a copy of which was sent to me, by our Brother S. for my signature. The subject of those "*Overtures*" and of the answer thereto, I have reason to believe, will be brought up before you in the course of our present session.

10. Mr. Weber, a candidate in our church, and for some time employed as a missionary in Jefferson County, and other western parts of this state, informed me that he had left our state, and taken under his ministerial care a Lutheran congregation at no great distance from Baltimore, Maryland.



11. In the course of the summer I learned from letters and other sources, that the tide of emigration from Germany had even reached the city of Boston, and deposited in that place a considerable number of Germans of different religious persuasions, Lutherans, German Reformed and Roman Catholics. I have been told, that many of them have, some time since formed themselves into a religious society, and are in the habit of meeting at stated times for the purpose of religious worship. An active member of our Missionary Committee has paid those people a visit not very long since, who I hope will give you more information on this highly interesting subject than I have it in my power to impart. Our young Brother L. Smith, also, has lately been in Boston and preached for those people in the German language, administering to a goodly number of them the Lord's Supper. Our prospects there are, I am persuaded, great and encouraging. May it please God to designate to us a man of his own heart, to become useful in that new portion of the Lord's vineyard. An earnest application from Boston has been made for a competent minister.

12. In the month of July last the pleasing information was conveyed to me in letters from Rev. Brother Pohlman, that a new church was building in Spruce Run, New Jersey, during the summer, the corner-stone of which had been laid by himself and Brother Hecht in spring last.

13. Lately I was favoured by a letter from our young Brother Welden, New Holland, Penn., wherein he informs me that he has united himself to the Synod of East Pennsylvania. Mr. Welden expresses his best sentiments and wishes for the prosperity of our Ministerium. Mr. W. will be an honorary member of this Ministerium.

14. I beg permission to lay before this Synod the case of our Rev. Brother Gibson, who is utterly destitute of a place and a sphere, in which he would be happy to render himself useful.

15. A rumour has reached me lately of the death of Candidate Charles E. Denninger, of Lafargeville, but whether founded on fact or not I am unable to say.

16. The Committee on our Ministerial Constitution will doubtless report to you in such a manner as to require the action of this body on that subject.

The above statements are such as I have deemed worthy of your notice. More important matters may be laid before you by the different Committees belonging to this body, whose Reports I have neither the wish nor the ability to anticipate.

And now, may we all in mind and heart be prepared to act and speak the things which are good and true, so that our meeting together on this solemn, this interesting occasion, may redound to the glory of our God and our Saviour, to the edification and welfare of many of our fellow-christians, and to the building up of the waste places of our Christian Zion. Let us all and each speak and act with integrity and zeal, following in the footsteps of our great Master and Redeemer, firmly relying on him, who has said: "I will never leave nor forsake thee," and who has promised to be our great and eternal reward. Amen!

A. WACKEHAGEN, *President.*



## APPENDIX B.

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The Missionary and Education Committee begs leave to report their operations for the past year.

At a meeting held at the last Synod it was determined to continue our assistance to our two beneficiaries ; but, shortly after, Mr. F. Springer signified his intention of quitting the Seminary, and not having complied with the terms upon which he was received, he gave us a note for the repayment of the money advanced to him. Mr. E. Mayer has continued, and is now in the Senior class, maintaining the confidence of his teachers, and will probably apply for a licence at the next Synod. A young gentleman is also supported at the Seminary by the Congregation of the Rev. Dr. Mayer, Philadelphia. There are one or two others, who, though not coming under the provisions of our plan, have been incidentally aided by the church. The increasing demand for labourers in our vineyard seems to direct our attention more and more to this branch of our operations. We want clergymen, particularly native-born clergymen, who can preach German and English, and who can go forth, possessing not only the spirit of the gospel, but also that of our American institutions, manners, &c. And this nursery of men of piety, talents, and learning, as yet in its infancy of usefulness, will be instrumental, we hope, not only in raising the character of our church, but the standard of piety amongst our people. It is our desire to afford encouragement to young men from our congregations, for it will tend to awaken among them a greater degree of devotion and zeal in the service of the Lord.

Our resources for Missionary purposes being very small we determined to divide them between the congregations at Newark, N. J., and Rochester and Rush, N. Y., where our Missionaries have continued, deeming it more advisable to render these stations permanent than to commence new ones which could not be sustained. Rev. Mr. Fetter reports : That he has through the year, continued in the discharge of his arduous duties, and that his heart has been greatly cheered by the success which has attended his labours. His situation has required many privations, which demand the future assistance and prayers of the church. If he meets with a hearty co-operation, he expresses a willingness to continue dispensing the word of life to our destitute brethren. In addition to his congregation at Rush he has formed one at Rochester, now numbering upwards of 70 members. A large lot has been given for a church and liberal contributions have been offered. Fifteen miles from Rush there is a settlement of Germans, in Geneseo, to whom he has occasionally preached, and there is another settlement of destitute people on Lake Ontario. We would express our satisfaction with the active and untiring exertions of Mr. F., and give him the assurance that he must and will be sustained by the church.

Mr. Merkle reports that in Newark there are 74 members of his congregation, and 36 families. He thinks that in the course of the next winter the number will be increased to 100 or upwards.

Mr. Veil settled in the neighbourhood of Buffalo in 1830, and has appeared before the Committee at its last meeting. In Genessee county



there are two congregations, and in the space of twenty miles square as many as 300 Lutheran families. Much of the information received from him will be found in the communication of Mr. Guinther.

Rev. Eisenlord has attended to the Germans at Canajoharie, at the request of this Committee. There are there a considerable number of industrious mechanics, regularly organized, endeavouring to maintain the preaching of the gospel, and it is hoped that we will be able to afford them such encouragement as they may need.

Information has been received from various quarters, calculated to show us that we have but just commenced our work. The Secretary of this Committee, on a visit to the City of Boston, in July last, found a considerable number of Germans permanently settled there. Rev. L. Smith has since visited them, and preached to them the sacred truths of the gospel. The prospect of establishing a congregation there is fair, and encouragement has been received of assistance from our eastern brethren of other denominations. Mr. H. Bokum of that congregation has appeared before your Committee, and the information communicated by him has called forth the assurance that no exertion will be left untried to grant them the assistance they may need. In Elizabethtown and Rahway, N. J., there are also prospects, if a man of piety and talents could be immediately located among them. Rev. Mr. Guinther, of Buffalo, writes that the whole country in that neighbourhood is filled with German settlements, and that though the people profess to be poor, they could soon support ministers if they were sent among them. The Rev. Mr. Dennler speaks in the same language of the country around Rome, Lyons and Cazenovia, and indicates a willingness to become a missionary if he can be supported.

This information has been gathered in the space of a few weeks. If something like an exploring missionary could be sent forth we have no doubt that, in a short time, information could be collected which would astonish and awaken the most careless and lukewarm in our Zion. Not only the western part of this state, but Michigan, Ohio and the valley of the Mississippi, are filled with our members, who naturally turn their attention to their elder brethren, and call upon us to send them the bread of life.

It would seem evident that it devolves upon us to endeavour to send these people help. Had they no peculiar claims, the common feelings of humanity would teach us to do *our part* towards their relief. But they are the members of the same church, they speak the same language, through which we *alone* can reach them, they have the same institutions, and the same mode of worship. Intelligent men of other denominations have written, beseeching us to exert ourselves, for they could not give these people help. All these considerations seem to render our duty so plain, that other arguments are useless. They seem to call upon us in the most strenuous language to raise up preachers for this people, and to send them forth to gather the harvest which is already ripe. But it is necessary that an exertion should be made immediately. It is generally understood that the Roman Catholic church is making a great effort to gather all the Germans into her fold. Schools and churches are established adapted to their peculiar wants, and by their influence upon the rising generation they expect to exert an influence over their fathers. The idea that such a spirit is abroad has awakened the attention of other branches of the Protestant church, and *they* are preparing means to counteract the effect of Jesuit artifice. If we wish to save this people to our church, we must be up and doing. If we wish to save them from error and superstition, and secure to them a knowledge of the truth, we must gird up ourselves for the warfare, for none can act so effectually as we can. We have assurances of the assistance



and co-operation of other Christian churches, if we will only do our part. And the whole subject seems to resolve itself into a very simple question, shall we continue to lie ingloriously idle in our present state of ease, or put on the whole armour of God and take our part in the warfare now going on between truth and error, between righteousness and iniquity? It will require sacrifices of time and money, but we hope that when the church feels its duty, its resources will be amply developed. It is not to be expected that this one Synod, can do all the work, but we can set an example to our brethren, we can lead on the van in the holy enterprise of giving to the destitute the hopes, comforts and salvation of the gospel. We feel the necessity of a general exertion of all the branches of our church in the cause of Domestic Missions, and whilst we shall labour to produce a union and harmony of feeling throughout our Synods, we shall not cease to operate upon our individual congregations, that we may indue them with that spirit of active and untiring benevolence which will induce them to give of their abundance to relieve the wants of the necessitous. Brethren, "the harvest is great and the labourers are few, pray, ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his vineyard," and with your prayers unite your zealous exertions and your liberal contributions. In concluding this report we would offer the following resolutions for the consideration of the Synod, which have a bearing upon the duties in which we are engaged. Vide, pp. 12, 13.

Respectfully submitted,

F. W. GEISSENHAINER, sen., *Chairman*,  
 WM. D. STROBEL, *Secretary*,  
 F. G. MAYER,  
 JACOB BERGER,  
 HENRY. N. POHLMAN,  
 HENRY LUDWIG,  
 P. W. ENGS.

Germantown, 13 Sept., 1835.







EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MINISTRIUM

THE STATE OF ALABAMA

1838